



## **United States Mission to the OSCE**

### **Statement on Space Shuttle Columbia Tragedy**

As delivered by Chargé d'Affaires Douglas A. Davidson  
to the Permanent Council, Vienna  
February 6, 2003

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

On behalf of my delegation and of the people of the United States, I should like to thank you for your kind words. As you have just said, our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of the seven astronauts of the space shuttle Columbia. These men and women are truly heroes – heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the sake of scientific research and discovery, and for the ultimate betterment of life here on Earth for all people.

This is not just an American tragedy or an Israeli tragedy. Space travel and exploration are only made possible through close collaboration and cooperation with partners around the world. In times such as these, as we grieve for those who have perished, we appreciate the support from our international partners more than ever.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.